LPG distributorship. Accordingly, as on 1.10.1996, 196 LPG distributorship were in operation in Kerala including 15 in Distt. Kottayam. In addition, 5 LPG distributorships have been included in the new draft Marketing Plan for Kottayam district.

Setting up of a Power Plant at IB Valley in Orissa

1404. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a proposal to set up a power plant at Ib valley in Orissa by an American company;

(b) if so, the details of the original proposal on which agreement was made between the Orissa Government and the company;

(c) whether the company has not been allowed to set up the plant; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by the Government of Orissa with M/s AES Transpower Corporation of USA on 9.12.1992 for execution of Unit 3 & 4 of Ib Valley TPS (2×210 MW). Subsequently, a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) was signed on 9.5.1993 between Orissa State Electricity Board and the company. The PPA was subsequently amended and a revised PPA was signed on 5.1.1995.

(c) and (d) Presently, the Government of Orissa is re-negotiating the PPA with the Company.

CSS Cadre Assistants

1405. SHRI JANARDHAN YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total sanctioned posts of Assistants of CSS cadre in various Ministries/Departments;

(b) the cadre-wise number of direct recruits and seniority quota Assistants in various cadre units, as on the 1st July, 1996;

(c) whether the remaining posts were/are being manned by promoting UDCs as Assistants on ad-hoc basis; and

(d) if so, the cadre-wise number of ad-hoc Assistants, as on the 1st July, 1996 in various cadre units of DP&T?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) 4871 as on 1.7.1995.

(b) to (d) The Assistants' Grade is decentralised into 33 cadres, each of which consists of one or more Ministries/Departments/Attached Offices. Appointments/promotions to the grade are made by the concerned cadres themselves. Therefore, the cadre-wise information regarding number of Assistants appointed by direct recruitment, promotion and on ad-hoc basis, as on 1.7.1996, is not readily available. However, the requisite information as on 1.7.1995 is given in the Statement (*see* below). Ad-hoc promotions in the Assistants' Grade from amongst eligible UDCs are allowed as a stop-gap arrangements, pending availability of regular appointees.